

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8965

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 0576

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, GT
SUBJ: THIRD CONFERENCE ON US-CENTRAL AMERICAN TRADE
AND INVESTMENT IN NEW ORLEANS

REF: A) STATE 22381, B) GUATEMALA 0554

1. EMBASSY CONSIDERS ROBERTO GIRON LEMUS
AS UNSUITABLE FOR SUGGESTED ROLE IN SUBJECT CONFERENCE.
AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO NOTE THAT HE IS
PRESM LAUGERUD'S SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THEREFORE A
SENIOR MEMBER OF GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT.

2. IF THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS DESIRE A NON-GOVERNMENT
AFFILIATE, ACTIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GUATEMALAN PRESS
TP SPEAK ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN VIEWPOINT ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
EMBASSY SUGGESTS ONE OF FOLLOWING:

A DAVID VELA SALVATIERRA, EDITOR OF EL IMPARCIAL,
EX-UN DELEGATE, LAWYER, VERY ASTUTE AND PRESTIGIOUS.
EXCELLENT SPEAKER (BORN 1901).

B. ALVARO CONTRERAS VELEZ, SUBDIRECTOR OF LA PRENSA
LIBRE, DEPT. OF STATE GRANTEE 1976. INTELLIGENT, GOOD
SPEAKER (BORN 1921).

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C. JORGE CARPIO NICOLLE, PUBLISHER OF EL GRAFICO AND
LA TARDE, UN DELEGATE, TWICE STATE DEPT. GRANTEE, MOST
RECENTLY IN 1973. SHARP, GOOD SPEAKER, INFLUENTIAL IN
THE POLITICAL SCENE (BORN 1932).

3. DEPT. HAS BIO ON ALL THREE ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS
SINCE VELA WAS A GRANTEE. BOTH VELA AND CONTRERAS AND

THEIR NEWSPAPERS TEND TO BE CRITICAL OF US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY (NOT TO THE SUPER-CRITICAL DEGREE OF GIRON AND LA NACION -- SEE GUAT 0554). JORGE CARPIO TENDS TO AGREE WITH THE US ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE IS ARTICULATE AND WELL CAPABLE OF PRESENTING "THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SIDE" EFFECTIVELY.

4. EMBASSY DISPOSED TO CONTACT ANY OF THREE. WE ARE NOT EXACTLY SURE OF NECESSARY CRITERIA, BUT MIGHT POINT OUT THAT GIRON RESIGNED FROM ACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF LA NACION IN 1974 ALTHOUGH HE STILL OWNS THE PAPER. THE OTHER THREE ARE ACTIVE IN THE PRESS FIELD.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

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